

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 14725 141531Z

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 AID-20 EB-11

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 COME-00 FRB-02

XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /238 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8504

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 14725

BANGKOK FOR RED

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, ECAFE

SUBJ: RED: ECAFE: TRIP TO PRC AND NAME CHANGE

1. SUMMARY: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY MARAMIS PLANS TO VISIT PEKING IN FEBRUARY. AFTER LONG CONSIDERATION HE HAS DECIDED TO REINTRODUCE A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE ECAFE'S NAME TO ECAP (ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC).

2. WHILE ON OFFICIAL VISIT TO NEW DELHI, MARAMIS INDICATED TO USDEL ATTENDING ASIAN STATISTICIANS CONFERENCE THAT HE HAS TOLD CHINESE HE IS TOO BUSY IN JANUARY (HE VISITS HIS OWN COUNTRY AS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY JANUARY 6) TO VISIT PEKING AND THAT FEBRUARY IS THE ONLY MONTH AVAILABLE FOR HIS VISIT PRIOR TO THE COMMISSION PLENARY IN LATE MARCH IN COLOMBO. (ECAFE OFFICIALS IN BANGKOK EARLIER THIS MONTH HAD INDICATED MARAMIS INTENDED TO VISIT PEKING DIRECTLY FROM ISLAMABAD. THE DATE OF HIS

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 14725 141531Z

PAKISTAN VISIT IS STILL UNCLEAR).

3. IN ALMOST THE SAME BREATH, MARAMIS REFERRED TO THE DEBATE FOUR YEARS AGO TO CHANGE ECAFE'S NAME. AFTER CONSIDERING THIS ISSUE FOR SOMETIME, MARAMIS HAS NOW DECIDED TO RAISE IT AT THE PLENARY IN COLOMBO. HE BELIEVES "FAR EAST" MUST BE ELIMINATED FROM ECAFE'S TITLE AND, WITH THE INCREASING ACCESSION OF THE NEW ISLAND NATIONS OF THE PACIFIC, IT WOULD BE PROPER TO INCLUDE "PACIFIC". THE NEW NAME WOULD THUS BE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC OR ECAP. NOTING THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT SOMETIME AGO SUBSTITUTED "EAST ASIA" FOR THE "FAR EAST" IN ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, USDEL SUGGESTED UNOFFICIALLY THAT PERHAPS FOR EUPHONY THE ACRONYM MIGHT READ ECAP TO COVER "ASIA AND THE PACIFIC ISLES". IT WOULD SOUND LESS ABRUPT, MORE EXOTIC, AND YET STILL SIMILAR TO THE PRESENT THREE-SYLLABLE E-KA-FEY (SOUNDS LIKE: NESCAFE).

4. COMMENT: MENTIONING HIS PROSPECTIVE PEKING TRIP AND THE ECAFE NAME CHANGE ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN JUST COINCIDENTAL. WHETHER THE CHINESE HAVE RAISED THE NAME CHANGE ISSUE WITH HIM IS UNKNOWN BUT MARAMIS MAY HAVE DECIDED TO BEAT THEM TO THE PUNCH BY CHANGING THE NAME ON HIS OWN. THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO MARK A CHANGE IN REGIME THAN BY CHANGING THE NAME OF THE INSTITUTION. MOYNIHAN

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